

Dear Sirs/Ms',

I wish to let you know my situation. I have not lived in the US for 35 years now. For the past 30 I have lived in the UK. I have not filed taxes for 29 years for various reasons, all innocent. I have had 3 US passports issued from London and not once was I given information on tax obligations or investing and savings from the US government's point of view. I just discovered this Pandora's box of US tax nightmares about 5 months ago - and I haven't slept well since.

The UK government in recent years has encouraged its citizens and residents to save. It came up with tax free vehicles called ISA's in several forms over the years. I have put both cash and stocks and shares ( in the form of trusts and funds, legal in the UK ) into these over a great many years and now have a modest savings of about \$40,000 but then at my age of 67, one would hope I had something put away. It seems unjust that the US will not recognise these tax efficient wrappers for people who have lived for so long outside the USA. My life is HERE not where you all are. My realities are HERE. I'm just trying to get by as best I can (HERE) but the IRS seems to feel they are entitled to some bit of my savings from earnings made HERE, not in the USA.

I have been looking at Streamlined to come back into compliance but the paperwork involved for FATCA and these PFI reporting is really putting me off. My 'income' here in the UK is less than \$16000 a year. I will be compelled by the complexity of the tax system to hire a professional for my US taxes. Yet, for each PFI (form 8621) I will have to pay between \$75 and \$100 EACH for each holding I have. This is on top of the £300 - £700 cost of just filing a 1040. I cannot afford this year in and out, so I will have to sell my investments. I will lose, the UK will lose and the US won't gain anything. The UK will lose big because if I fail, the welfare state will have to take care of me to a certain extent. Just because of FATCA, FBAR and PFI reporting. The costs involved for becoming compliant are horrendous for people like me and at the end of the day, I won't owe the USA any tax so nothing will have been gained by the US but I will be significantly poorer. The big IF is will I even try to become compliant. I am close to doing so but cannot press the 'send' button to the accountant because I know I will hereafter have to do this forever more and it seems so very unjust. Not only that, but I have learned my British children are also caught up in this - according to US law. It is an absurdity they should be held to account to file to the IRS when they have never lived in the USA. All that they have and are has been provided by the UK taxpayer, not the US taxpayer.

I think the United States, IF it truly believes Citizen Based Taxation is just, should make some hefty allowances for people like me who fell in love, married, had families and made lives outside the US. It should NOT expect children of Americans overseas to comply if they have never lived as adults in the US. This is just WRONG. I love my country but I feel this Citizen Based Taxation as it stands currently, in this day and age, is arrogant and an abuse of power.

Look at it this way, how would people from Nebraska feel if they married and moved to Georgia, lived there many years and Nebraska expected them to still file Nebraska state taxes and pay Nebraska state taxes on top of their Georgia taxes, when they had not lived there for many years. And if they then moved to New York, they would STILL have to file Nebraska taxes, etc., etc. It wouldn't go down well and if someone suggested it, there probably be more than a great deal of dissent.

Karen Furley  
Canterbury  
England